

Attorney Docket Number: 6847.US.O1
Filing Date: November 6, 2000

Remarks

A. Background

Claims 1-19, 21-23, 26, 28-32 are currently pending after entry of the above amendments. Claims 20, 24, 25, 27, 33-34 are hereby canceled through the above amendments without disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 19, 21-23, 26, 28-31 have been amended as submitted above. Claims 1-24 and 26-33 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and claims 25 and 34 have been objected to. Applicants hereby submit the following claim amendments and remarks with regard to the referenced claim rejections and objections.

B. Rejections under 35.U.S.C. §102(e).

Claims 1-24, 26-33

Claims 1-24, 26-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Whitin et al. (US Patent No. 6,190,396).

Claims 1, 21-23, 26, 28-31 have been amended and Claims 20, 24-25, 27, 33, and 34 have been canceled through the amendments submitted herein.

Directing the examiner's attention to independent claims 1, 19 and 26, Applicants believe that the amendments presented herein place the claims in condition for allowance. More specifically, as indicated by the Examiner in the above-referenced Official Action, "the prior art does not disclose a suture placement device or system having, inter alia, a body, a support on the body releasably arranged to hold and end of at least one suture element, at least one engagement element, and a suture holder on the body, where the support defines a plurality of seats releasably arranged to

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receive cuffs attached to ends of the suture elements." (See Official Action paragraph 4).

Applicants hereby submit the above amendments to the independent claims, wherein the independent claims have been amended to recite a suturing device having a body, a support, the support configured to releasably receive a cuff therein, whereby the cuff is attached at one end to suture and at the other end configured to receive a needle therein, whereby the suture and cuff are configured to pass from one side of a tissue wall to the other.

Applicants believe that the amendments presented herein place the independent claims in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the above amendments and remarks.

C. Claim Objection

Claims 25 and 34 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants respectfully direct the Examiners attention to the claim amendments above with regard to the independent claims. Claims 25 and 34 have been canceled in view of the above claim amendments. Applicants believe that the claims as amended are allowable over the cited reference and respectfully request reconsideration thereof.

D. Conclusion

Applicants believe that through the amendments and the remarks presented above, the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the application be advanced to allowance as soon as possible.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact

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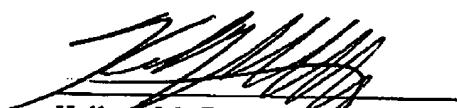
the undersigned attorney.

Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-0025 for any charges that may be due or credit our account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

23492



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